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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,182	12/07/2004	Hajime Maekawa	MAT-8637US	4367
23122	7590	05/28/2008	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P O BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980				GORTAYO, DANGELINO N
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/517,182	MAEKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DANGELINO N. GORTAYO	2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 12-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 12-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/28/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. In the amendment filed on 3/7/2008, claims 12 and 14 have been amended. The currently pending claims considered below are Claims 12-18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humbleman et al. ("Humbleman" US Patent 7,043,532 B1) in view of Motoyama (US Patent 7,136,914 B2)

As per claim 12, Humbleman teaches “An electronic device configured to be used with an access device and a server device having operation screen information,” (see Abstract)

“comprising: an operation screen information storage part which stores operation screen information that is information to configure a screen for operating one of the electronic device and another electronic device;” (Figure 3, 10, column 4 line 59 – column 5 line 19, column 9 lines 6-19, wherein graphical control object (GCO) is stored that contains user interface description for services implemented on the device)

“an operation information transmission part which transmits the operation information at a request of the access device” (column 5 lines 1-32, column 8 lines 3-18, column 9 lines 20-26 and 49-63, column 14 lines 6-13 and 51-54, column 17 lines 44-51, wherein a client device transmits attribute accesses the GCO data of a controlled server device, and that a device manager can control device accessing) “the access device having a server identifier of the server device stored in advance and requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier” (Figure 11, column 5 lines 1-11, lines 20-32, column 6 lines 4-18, column 8 lines 7-22, column 9 lines 6-26, column 9 line 50 – column 10 line 3, column 23 lines 28-50, wherein a controlling client device uses a session manager, the client device containing Device Location data and capabilities data table, to identify and operate devices using a GCO stored in the client device)

“a device operation screen information reception part which accepts device operation information;” (column 5 lines 1-11, column 8 lines 4-11, column 11 lines 35-

45, column 17 lines 49-51, wherein a controlled server device receives the GCO or attribute information from a client device, in HTML or XML format)

“and a device drive part which operates based on the device operation information that the device operation screen information reception part has accepted.” (column 8 lines 7-11, column 14 lines 34-46, column 17 line 57 – column 18 line 4, wherein once the device interface is accepted, native operation based on the device is executed)

Humbleman does not explicitly disclose “the server device, responsive to the access device being permitted to access the electronic device, transmitting the locator of the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device”

Motoyama teaches “the server device, responsive to the access device being permitted to access the electronic device, transmitting the locator of the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device” (column 11 lines 21-51, column 12 lines 30-52, column 13 lines 26-53, column 14 lines 8-41, wherein once a control device/terminal is identified, a server device can send the controlling device the location of several electronic devices for operation information).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Humbleman's method of allowing an controlling access device the ability to access controlled client devices' operational information through a server device with Motoyama's ability for a server to send the location of different electronic

devices to a controlling device once access is granted to the controlling device. This gives the user the advantage of accessing the operational screen of several devices in one screen (column 14 lines 7-42). The motivation for doing so would be to allow a user to access several different devices through one controlling device, for ease of use to a user (column 1 lines 42-67).

As per claim 13, Humpleman teaches “a device operation information setting part which stores the device operation information accepted by the device operation information reception part,” (column 15 lines 41-55, column 17 lines 44-56, and column 18 lines 5-16) “wherein the device drive part operates based on the device operation information stored by the device operation information setting part.” (column 14 lines 44-48, column 18 lines 13-16, column 25 lines 15-24)

As per claim 14, Humpleman teaches “An information processing method to be used in an electronic device configured to be used with an access device and a server device,” (see Abstract)

“comprising: an operation information transmission step of transmitting operation information that is information to operation of one of the electronic device, at a request;” (column 5 lines 1-32, column 8 lines 3-18, column 9 lines 20-26 and 49-63, column 14 lines 6-13 and 51-54, column 17 lines 44-51, wherein a client device transmits attribute accesses the GCO data of a controlled server device, and that a device manager can control device accessing)

“a server identification storing step of storing a server identifier of the server device, in the access device;” (Figure 11, column 5 lines 1-11, column 9 line 50 – column 10 line 3, wherein a controlling client device contains a GCO obtained from a server device to identify server devices)

“a locator requesting step of requesting a locator of the electronic device from the server device using the server identifier stored in the access device in advance;” (column 5 lines 20-32, column 6 lines 4-18, column 8 lines 7-22, column 9 lines 6-26, column 9 line 50 – column 10 line 3, column 23 lines 28-50, wherein a controlling client device uses a session manager, the client device containing Device Location data and capabilities data table, to identify and operate devices using a GCO stored in the client device)

“a device operation information reception step of accepting device operation information;” (column 5 lines 1-11, column 8 lines 4-11, column 11 lines 35-45, column 17 lines 49-51, wherein a controlled server device receives the GCO or attribute information from a client device, in HTML or XML format)

“and a device drive step of operating based on the device operation information accepted at the device operation information reception step.” (column 8 lines 7-11, column 14 lines 34-46, column 17 line 57 – column 18 line 4, wherein once the device interface is accepted, native operation based on the device is executed)

Humbleman does not explicitly disclose “the locator requesting step including, verify that the access device is permitted to access the electronic device, transmitting, by the server device the locator of the electronic device after the access device is

verified to have access to the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device”

Motoyama teaches “the locator requesting step including, verify that the access device is permitted to access the electronic device, transmitting, by the server device the locator of the electronic device after the access device is verified to have access to the electronic device such that the operation information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device” (column 11 lines 21-51, column 12 lines 30-52, column 13 lines 26-53, column 14 lines 8-41, wherein once a control device/terminal is identified, a server device can send the controlling device the location of several electronic devices for operation information).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Humpleman's method of allowing an controlling access device the ability to access controlled client devices' operational information through a server device with Motoyama's ability for a server to send the location of different electronic devices to a controlling device once access is granted to the controlling device. This gives the user the advantage of accessing the operational screen of several devices in one screen (column 14 lines 7-42). The motivation for doing so would be to allow a user to access several different devices through one controlling device, for ease of use to a user (column 1 lines 42-67).

As per claim 15, Humbleman teaches “a device operation information setting step of storing the device operation information accepted at the device operation

information reception step,” (column 15 lines 41-55, column 17 lines 44-56, and column 18 lines 5-16) “wherein an operation is carried out based on the device operation information stored at the device operation information setting step, at the device drive step.” (column 14 lines 44-48, column 18 lines 13-16, column 25 lines 15-24)

As per claim 16, Humpleman teaches “the operation information storage part includes an operation screen storage part which stores operation screen information to configure a screen for operating one of the electronic device and another electronic device;” (column 5 lines 1-11, column 6 lines 4-18)

“the operation information transmission part includes the operation screen information transmission part which transmits the operation screen information at the request of the access device, the operation screen information is transmitted after the access device receives the locator of the electronic device from the server device;” (column 6 lines 4-18, column 7 lines 10-16)

“the device operation information reception part includes a device operation screen information reception part which accepts device operation screen information; and the device drive part operates based on the device operation information that the device operation screen information reception part has accepted.” (column 8 lines 3-40)

As per claim 17, Humpleman teaches “the operation information transmission step includes transmitting operation screen information that is information to configure a screen for operating one of the electronic device and another electronic device, at the request.” (column 5 lines 1-11, lines 43-65)

As per claim 18, Humbleman teaches “the server device stores a set of identifiers corresponding to access devices that are permitted to access the electronic device;” (column 7 line 59—column 8 line 2, column 8 lines 31-40, column 19 lines 47-67, column 23 lines 28-50)

“and the operation information is transmitted after the server matches an access device identifier sent by the access device to one of the stored identifiers of the set of stored identifiers.” (column 5 lines 1-11, lines 43-65, column 20 lines 1-27, column 23 lines 28-50)

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments, see page 6, filed 3/7/2008, with respect to the rejection of claims 12-18 under 35 USC 102(e) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The amendments to the claims necessitated new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lasensky et al. (US Patent 7,054,863 B2)

Parent (US Patent 7,024,473 B2)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANGELINO N. GORTAYO whose telephone number is (571)272-7204. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim T. Vo can be reached on (571)272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tim T. Vo/
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Dangelino N. Gortayo
Examiner

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SPE